

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 16 without prejudice and add the following claims 17 to 29:

Claims 1 to 16. (canceled)

17. (new) A solar collector comprising:

- an absorber tube (13) through which a heat-transfer medium is able to flow;

- a concentrator that focuses solar radiation onto the absorber tube;

- at least one radiation-permeable cladding tube (15) enclosing the absorber tube (13);

- compensation pieces (17) for length compensation provided at respective ends of the at least one cladding tube (15) in connection areas (50); and

- at least one mirror collar (20) that is arranged around the cladding tube (15) and is located in the connection areas;

- wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) has at least one reflective metal surface facing away from the cladding tube (15) and said at least one reflective metal surface consists of at least one planar surface (30).

18. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 17, wherein said at least one planar surface (30) consists of a single annular surface (31) that is oriented perpendicularly to the axis of the cladding tube (15) and is planar.

19. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 17, wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of a plurality of planar surfaces (30) circumferentially disposed around the cladding tube (15).

20. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 19, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) has from two to eight of said planar surfaces (30).

21. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 17, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) has a height (h) perpendicular to the axis of the cladding tube (15), each of the connection areas have a length (L), and a ratio (h/L) of said height to said length is between 0.3 and 1.

22. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 17, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) is composed of aluminum.

23. (new) A parabolic trough collector comprising:

an absorber tube (13) through which a heat transfer fluid is able to flow;
a parabolic reflector (11) that focuses solar radiation onto the absorber tube;

cladding tubes (15) enclosing the absorber tube (13) so that the absorber tube (13) extends through the cladding tubes (15);

compensation pieces (17) for compensating differing length changes of the absorber tube and the cladding tubes due to thermal expansion, said

compensation pieces (17) connecting the cladding tubes (15) to the absorber tube (13) so that connection areas (50) are formed between the cladding tubes; and

mirror collars (20) arranged around the cladding tubes in the connection areas to partially or fully cover said compensation pieces (17) to provide at least partial protection of the compensation pieces (17) from the solar radiation;

wherein the mirror collars (20) each have at least one reflective metal surface facing away from the cladding tubes (15) and said at least one reflective metal surface reflects a part of the solar radiation directed toward the cladding tubes (15) so that said part of the solar radiation passes through the cladding tubes (15) to the absorber tube (13); and

wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of at least one planar surface (30).

24. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 23, wherein said at least one planar surface (30) consists of a single annular surface (31) that is oriented perpendicularly to the axis of the cladding tube (15) and is planar.

25. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 23, wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of a plurality of planar surfaces (30) circumferentially disposed around the cladding tube (15).

26. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 25, wherein each of said mirror

collars (20) has from two to eight of said planar surfaces (30).

27. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 23, wherein each of said mirror collars (20) has a height (h) perpendicular to the axis of the cladding tubes (15), each of the connection areas have a length (L), and a ratio (h/L) of said height to said length is between 0.3 and 1.

28. (new) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein the parabolic reflector (11) tracks the sun via a single axis.

29. (new) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein each of said mirror collars (20) is composed of aluminum.